



Hong Kong Tax Newsflash

Passage of stamp duty waivers for transfer of REIT units and jobbing business of options market makers

Hong Kong | Tax & Business Advisory | 12 December 2024 | Issue 230

The Legislative Council passed the Bill¹ to implement the following measures proposed in the 2024-25 Budget on 11 December 2024:

- Stamp duty waiver for the transfer of shares or units of real estate investment trusts (REITs)²;
- Stamp duty waiver for the transactions amounting to jobbing business³ of options market makers⁴; and
- A revised stamp duty collection arrangement for the uncertificated securities market (USM) regime⁵ in Hong Kong.

The stamp duty waivers for the transfer of REIT units and jobbing business transactions of options market makers will be implemented on 21 December 2024, following the gazettal of the ordinance. The revised stamp duty collection arrangement for transactions under the USM regime will apply to the transactions once the USM regime itself is implemented.

For details, please refer to our [Hong Kong Tax Newsflash Issue 228](#).

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¹ [Stamp Duty Legislation \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Bill 2024](#)

² REIT is a collective investment scheme constituted as a trust that invests primarily in real estate. Its units are listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

³ Jobbing business refers to the sale or purchase of stock by an options market maker, either for hedging their options or in their ordinary course of business.

⁴ Options market maker means an exchange participant permitted by a recognized exchange company to make a market in options contracts under its rules.

⁵ The USM regime aims to remove the need to use paper documents to evidence and effect transfer of legal title to securities by providing a digitalised environment. It is expected to come into effect in 2025.

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